(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) सरकार की इस संबंध में क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय में शिक्षा विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुही राम सैकिया): (क) और (ख) जी, हां। राजस्थान में जयपुर में और पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र में केन्द्रीय एस० आंचलिक शिक्षा तथा प्रशिक्षण संस्थान खोलने के लिए एक संसद सदस्य से अभ्यावेदन प्राप्त हुआ है।

(ग) सरकार ने ऐसे स्थानों के संबंध में पहले ही निर्णय ले लिया है जहां प्रशिक्षण संस्थान स्थापित किए जाने हैं।

Relaxation of norms for import of potassic fertilizers

865. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite caveat by agricultural body, norms for import of potassic fertilizers from CIS has been relaxed, as reported in the "Indian Express", dated 5.11.96;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to the observations made therein and facts in this regard;

(c) the justification for relaxing the norms against the technical opinion; and

(d) the total quantity of chemical fertilizer imported since relaxation of statutory specifications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (c) Prior to the decontrol of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers in August '92, relaxation in particle size specifications was being accorded for import of Muriate of Potash (MOP) from the Former Soviet Union (FSU), which is one of the largest producers of MOP. Since the decanalisation of MOP imports in June '93, the question of relaxation in particle size specifications has been under the active consideration of the Government. As no definite technical opinion could be formulated on the effect of particle size on the agronomic efficacy of MOP, it has been decided to relax these specifications for a period of one year with effect from 31.10.1996 to avoid disruption in the imports of MOP.

(d) No imports of MOP from the FSU have been reported after 31.10.1996.

Pension to retired employees of Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.

866. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:
PROF. RAM KAPSE:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had received any request in 1995, for grant of pension to the retired employees of Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd., Pimpri, Pune;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken a decision in the matter;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor, and the time by which Government are expected to take a decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. This Ministry had received representations in regard to introduction of a pension scheme for the retired employees of Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. (HAL) with effect from 1.1.1986. There had been no pension scheme uniformly applicable to all public sector undertakings. The Government has now notified a pension scheme through Notification No. GSR-740(E) dated 16.11.1995. It is uniformely applicable to all organisations covered by the Employees Provident Fund and the Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952. In terms of the scheme, the employees have been given option of becoming members from 1.4.1993. It is not possible for Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. to introduce a pension scheme with effect from 1.1.1986.

Decline in wheat cultivation

867. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the area under wheat cultivation has declined and the area under the non-food crops has increased; if so, the decline in land